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1955/04/23

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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Control: 12766
Rec'd: April 23, 1955
4:50 a.m.

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FROM: Saigon

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 4751, April 23, 2 p.m.

Bureau of
FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
APR 23 1955
Department of State

SENT DEPARTMENT 4751, REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 1233

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FOR AMBASSADOR PARIS

1. Former Defense Minister Minh called this morning April 23 to follow up on conversation with Collins reported EMBTEL 4662, repeated Paris 1208. He said he had met with Do, Quat, Van and others subsequent Collins' departure and that entire group convinced Diem is through and that there no possible way to retain him as President.

2. Minh believes it will be perhaps impossible to remove Diem without making it appear victory for sect front, but states change must be made nevertheless rapidly. He suggests political groups, sects, and French and Americans if they so desire, suggest names immediately to Bao Dai and let him make choice. This would be interim government pending election National Assembly and New Prime Minister should immediately set date for elections and announce willingness accept decisions of Assembly on his successor.

The Dwight D. Eisenhower Library

3. Political situation deteriorating rapidly and divisions within Army becoming serious. Minh doubts many battalions would now be loyal to Diem. In addition Minh has evidence he believes reliable that Viet Minh are increasing activities among refugees with arrival of new cadres. Numerous tracts, which Minh believes inspired by Diem, attacking Geleral Vy and more recently Bao Dai, being distributed throughout city.

4. Minh believes that if US even under best possible conditions continues support Diem anti-Americanism will increase to potientially serious proportion.

5. Discussing regional sentiment in Vietnam, Minh, Cochin-Chinese, expressed apprehension regarding possibility Tonkinese might play leading role in any new government. He carefully refrained mention names but probably referring to Quat.

Comment:

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Authority NND 809053
By HP NLE Date 7-24-87

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Minh himself has ambitious

Comment: This feeling against Tonkinese by Cochin-Chinese is profound although not appearing on surface. If Quat would be next Prime Minister, he would have handle this problem with kid gloves, particularly in his choice of colleagues and close advisors, otherwise he would find himself almost immediately up against strong opposition in Cochin China.

KIDDER

FJS/15